

Attorney's Docket No. RA-5415
Amendment

Serial No. 09/927,069
08/12/04

REMARKS

Through inadvertence the dependency of claim 7 was made from claim 5 instead of claim 6, and the amendment above corrects that error.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 9-12 as anticipated by Lambright is respectfully believed to be in error.

Firstly, the Lambright reference fails to include any of the preamble limitations as to operation of cache memory in a multiprocessor computer system. These limitations can be clearly seen by implication when the words "mid-level cache" are encountered in claim 1, as this clearly implies that there are levels of cache and that the mid-level caches operate on or use "communal software locks". The Lambright reference also does not have "Communal Software Locks" as described by the applicant in the specification (bottom of page 6, at least to line 19 of page 7). Note that communal locks are mapped to particular mid-level caches (SLC), unlike standard locks.

Nevertheless, as this language may be unclear as some implicit understanding of the nature of cache architecture in multiprocessor computer systems is otherwise assumed, the applicant has made clear this distinction by modification of claim 1.

Secondly, the citation to the Lambright reference at columns 3 and 5 in paragraph 6 of the official communication are not teaching the elements of the claims which the communication says they are. The two locks described in the column 3 citation cover different areas of memory, while communal and non-communal locks in the applicant's system are not excluded from covering the same memory areas. At the column 5 citation, it is very clear that the two locks the reference discusses work together, and of necessity cover the same chunks of data, whereas there is not such constraint in the applicant's invention. Furthermore, the two process steps in claim 1 are for communal software locks only, not for two kinds of locks as the official communication describes. The official communication suggests that a hardware lock action and a software lock action are being covered

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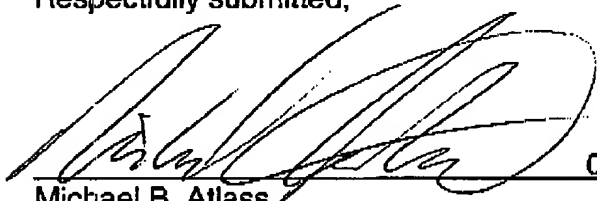
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by the claims two actions relevant only to a communal (i.e., one of two types of) software lock. Accordingly the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn and the applicant respectfully requests the same.

With respect to claim 2's rejection on the basis of Lambright, as it depends from claim 1 which should be found allowable it, and all dependent claims, should be allowable on that basis. Further, the rejection requires that the method work using an LRU, which the applicant's system does not have. Further the applicant's system has side doors and associated instruction processors which the reference does not have associated with its LRUs (Logical Ring Units), and the claim requires such features to operate. Accordingly withdrawal of this rejection too is respectfully requested.

All the other rejections should be reconsidered in light of the amendment as they all reference an architecture and features that are simply not the same as the ones the applicant is claiming. With respect therefore, the applicant requests withdrawal of all the rejections and that the claims be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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